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## HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH, CARLYLE, ILLINOIS.

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MABEL HALL ROBINSON.

The religious body legally known as the "Protestant Episcopal church in the United States," would be named more correctly in accordance with its history and teaching, if it were called the American Catholic church.

The church in this country is an historical branch of the Church of England. Christianity has had an ecclesiastical existence in England from the very earliest days; tradition saying that it was founded by St. Paul himself. From that day to this there has been an historical, organic national church in England. The congregations of church people in America were under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Bishop of London until the Revolutionary War made this an independent nation.

The church congregations, having procured the Apostolical Succession by the consecration in Scotland and England of the first American Bishops, were thereupon organized as a national Catholic church, departing from the Church of England only so far as local circumstances required.

The services of the church were begun in Carlyle, Clinton county, Illinois, early in the spring of 1868. A meeting was held and seven ladies attended. They were Mrs. Eliza Breese, wife of the late Chief Justice Breese of Illinois, and daughter, Mrs. Eliza McClurken; Mrs. Margaret A. Bacon, wife of Col. G. A. Bacon; Mrs. J. Ford Smith, Mrs. Darius Kingsbury, Mrs. Anne Hall and Mrs. Ellen Maddux.

They decided to write to Bishop Whitehouse of Illinois, who lived in Chicago. Finding the Bishop was in Europe, they had to wait a few months for his return.

As soon as possible he came down. It was on the second day of May, 1868. He was quite happy to establish the church in Carlyle. He baptized three persons and confirmed

eight and held the first service according to the liturgy of the church. The Bishop donated fifty dollars, which was put away and from time to time added to for the purpose of building a church. Thus at once were practical efforts made to secure a church.

Regular services were at once begun, though, of course, from the circumstances they were only held as a clergyman could be found who could spare the time from his parish work.

Occasionally services were held during the summer by the Rev. P. A. Johnson, of Centralia, Illinois, the Rev. Mr. Abbott and the Rev. Mr. Ingraham, both of Alton. In 1869 the Rev. Joseph Adderly arranged with the church to give service every fourth Sunday and afterward gave each alternate Sunday to the church here. Mr. Adderly continued in charge until his death, March 1, 1877. His death was lamented both by the church people and the community.

In 1870 a hall was rented and fitted up for services. Heretofore the Presbyterian or Baptist meeting house was used. Christ Church Mission was the name of the organization.

In the fall of 1873 a subscription of \$2,000 was raised for the purpose of building a church, but not being a sufficient amount the intention to build was postponed for a time.

The Rev. J. U. Chestnutt and the Rev. Mr. Huntington then gave occasional services.

In 1879 the Rev. W. M. Steel took regular charge of the church in connection with Centralia until the summer of 1880, when he went to Colorado.

At this time Bishop Seymour made a visitation and by his advice the subscription paper was again circulated and enough was raised to build the church.

The Rev. Jesse Higgins was then appointed by the Bishop and gave alternate Sundays up until February 2, 1881, when he left to give his entire time to Centralia.

The Reverend Joseph C. Acomb was called April 1, 1881, to give his entire time to the church. On the 26th of April, 1881, the bishop of the diocese, the Right Reverend George F. Seymour, D. D. S. T. D., visited Carlyle and consecrated the church. He was assisted by the deacon of Cairo, the Very

Reverend I. W. N. Irvin, of Mt. Vernon, the Reverend Messrs. Moore, of Decatur, VanWinkle, of Jerseyville, Higgins, of Centralia, and the rector.

The church building was of frame and cost \$4,125.00 and was entirely free from debt. Sittings were all free. The church had a handsome window in memoriam of Sidney Breese, Esq., late chief justice of Illinois, and an altar in memoriam of the late Reverend Joseph McCullough, D. D., formerly rector of St. Paul's church, Alton, Illinois. The window was given by Lieutenant J. B. Breese, son of Judge Breese, and the altar, together with the chancel furniture and carpet, by Mrs. Joseph Breese, in memory of her father, Reverend Mr. McCullough. At that time the number of communicants was about thirty.

Reverend Acomb resigned in the spring of 1882, and on September, 1884, the Reverend D. F. Hutchinson preached his first sermon. He died August 24, 1885, and was buried at Carlyle.

On October 4, 1885, the Reverend Dr. W. J. Frost, D. D. archdeacon of Alton, officiated for the first time and remained until his death, February 23, 1892.

The bishop then appointed Reverend J. G. Wright, of Greenville, Ill., missionary in charge for the time being.

On April 8, 1898, Reverend Edward Seymour, A. M. B. D., formerly of Ashtabula, Ohio, arrived and took charge of this parish under appointment of Right Reverend Bishop Hale, remaining until 1903, when he was compelled to resign on account of ill health. He died in Michigan several years later.

On July 10, 1903, Doctor Alex August Cairns took charge and remained until November 18, 1906, when he accepted a call to Davenport, Iowa. It was during the time of his stay, on the 28th day of April, 1905, a tornado passed over the city of Carlyle, completely demolishing the beautiful church. One of the first acts of Doctor Cairns was to find and preserve the copper box which had been deposited in the cornerstone when the church was built.

This box, intact and unopened, was later deposited in the cornerstone of the new church, with a similar box containing papers, records and appropriate articles. The new church

was then built. It is a very pretty stucco building cost \$5,000.00.

The cornerstone was laid on Monday, December 18, 1905. The ceremony being conducted by Right Reverend Dr. Osborne, Bishop Coadjutor of Springfield, who was assisted by Reverend Dr. A. A. Cairns, the rector.

In November, 1915, Venerable Henry M. Chittenden, archdeacon of Alton, took charge, and is at the time of this writing the priest in charge, dividing his time between Carlyle, Salem, Mt. Vernon and McLeansboro.

The church is free from debt and at present has money invested in Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps.